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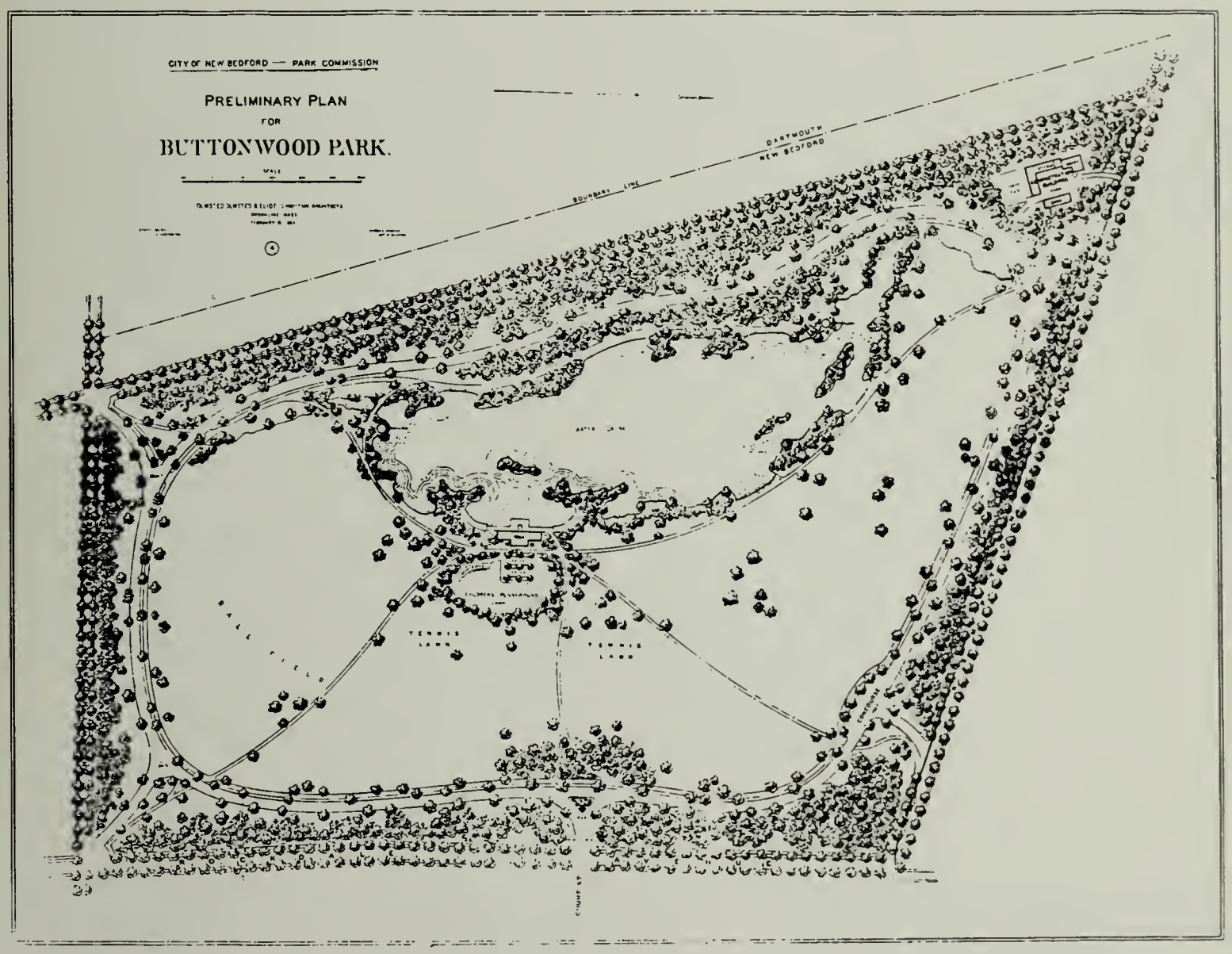
FOR A

HISTORY OF BUTTONWOOD PARK IN

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS



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FOR A

HISTORY OF BUTTONWOOD PARK IN

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

By

Joy Kestenbaum
Landscape Historian

PHASE I
FINAL REPORT
MAY 1987

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Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program
Department of Environmental Management
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
225 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 727-3160

Joy Kestenbaum, Consultant
Architectural and Landscape History

60 East 9th Street
New York, NY 10003
(212) 674-5426

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Preliminary Plan for Buttonwood Park, New Bedford
Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot (1895) Cover

Conveyance Data and Record Map of Buttonwood Park,
based upon map by George H. Nye, City Engineer,
March 1927, with additional data added by
Joy Kestenbaum, Historical Consultant 17

GENERAL EVALUATION:

The following report includes the primary and secondary sources consulted in the preparation of the Historic Landscape Report and the Modified Historic Structures and Furnishings Report for Buttonwood Park, New Bedford. These historic reports comprise the first in-depth study of the park and the first examination of the formation and development of the New Bedford park system.

This final bibliography/sources report, the revision of a draft submitted in November 1985, is the result of extensive primary research on the local level. A significant amount and variety of source material have been examined in various New Bedford archives. Pertinent libraries and specialized collections in Massachusetts, New York City, and Washington, D.C. have also been consulted. These resources have provided documentation for a detailed chronology and a thorough study of the park throughout its history. The general approach to the research has been to understand the role of the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his partners and associates, to determine how and why the park has taken the particular form that it has, and to document the changes made over the last ninety-five years.

My initial research focused on the early years of Buttonwood Park's existence. Of particular interest was the period of 1892-1895, when the park was first acquired, formally dedicated, and initially planned. The survival of the municipal records, the

extensive coverage of the developments and issues in the New Bedford newspapers, and the existence of material on the park in the professional papers of the landscape architects, Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, provided the means with which to understand the original goals and intentions of the designers and of the New Bedford Park Commission for the development of the park and the municipal park system.

The reports and collections of the relevant New Bedford City Departments contain sufficient material with which to adequately document the park's history. Particularly rich in source material are the Board of Public Works and the Departments of Engineering, Parks, Buildings, and Planning. The annual reports of these departments have been published in the City Documents.

The minutes of the meetings of the Park Commissioners and the annual reports of the Department of Parks provide the basic source for information on park planning and development throughout the history of Buttonwood Park. The minutes have been kept since 1892 and the reports have been published yearly since 1894. Contained within the latter are the reports of the park commission and of the superintendent as well as the financial statements of the department. The annual report of the Department of Parks was not published in 1899, a transitional year during which time a new Board of Park Commissioners was established. From 1900 to 1928, many of the annual reports were illustrated with photographs; (however, many of the same photographs were reprinted in the different reports.) Separate

illustrated and enlarged editions of the 7th to 10th annual reports appeared for the years 1900-1903. During the lean, early years of the Depression, from 1930-1933, the financial statement was the only item reported.

Plans stored in the different city departments provide an almost complete visual record of the park's actual construction. In addition, various extant plans document proposals for landscaping and buildings which were never executed. Historic photographs document demolished structures and furnishings as well as park activities and scenery. All the plans and photographs that were examined and their locations are noted in the following report.

An examination of the complete conveyance records at the Registry of Deeds of the Bristol County Southern District clarified the sequence of land acquisition. (See page 17 for Conveyance Data and Record Map.) The history of the acquisition of the land encompassing Buttonwood Park by the City of New Bedford is somewhat complicated. Buttonwood Park was acquired in eleven separate parcels from 1892-1936. The initial purchase of three parcels totalled roughly sixty acres; presently, the park, the largest in the city's system, is ninety-seven acres. Although the Olmsted firm and the early Park Commissioners had recommended that the park's boundaries be extended to the north and south so as to form an irregular quadrilateral bounded by city streets, a large portion of what would have been the northeast quadrant of the park was never acquired and is occupied

by residential lots. (Compare plan on the cover and the Record Map on page 17.) Furthermore, the present layout and visual character of the park are in part a result of the additive nature of its acquisition.

In order to adequately document the history of Buttonwood Park, it is necessary to supplement the public record with accounts and editorials from the local newspapers. Newspaper articles are an important source for understanding the New Bedford political climate and how it has affected park planning, selection of park sites, park appropriations, and public opinion. Park activities and events have also been reported in the press. For example, by scanning the local newspapers, I was able to locate the full report of 1894 of the city engineer, William F. Williams, on the water supply of Buttonwood Park and the development of its water feature. This report was briefly mentioned in the minutes and annual reports. However, not all items and reports that were noted in a passing reference could be found in the newspapers.

In the context of this statewide park restoration program, it is of interest to mention the series of articles which appeared in the city newspapers in 1899, when the new Board of Park Commissioners was established. W. H. B. Remington, who later moved on to the position of City Clerk and finally to that of Mayor, wrote several articles documenting the visits and reactions of the new board to the parks of Boston, Worcester, Springfield, and to Roger Williams Park, in Providence, Rhode Island. The New

Bedford Board of Park Commissioners was greatly impressed by the character and improvements of the parks in these cities in comparison to the less advanced state of development of their own parks and park system.

The Records of the Olmsted Associates at the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, and the diaries of Charles Eliot at the Frances Loeb Library, Harvard University, clarify the role of the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot in the initial designing and planning of Buttonwood Park during the years 1894-1895. The correspondence between the New Bedford Park Commission and the Olmsted firm outlines the terms of contract. Letters between Charles Eliot and the City Engineer of New Bedford and other local residents discuss issues which were significant to the planning of the park. Of importance, for example, were the problem of the water supply and the preservation of the site's natural features. Two reports were prepared by Eliot and signed by the firm: that of his visit to New Bedford's parks (June 1894) and a preliminary report on Buttonwood Park (February 1895). These written reports are graphically supplemented by the firm's preliminary plan for Buttonwood Park, dated February 18, 1895. (See cover illustration.) Copies of this plan have been preserved at Fairsted, the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, in Brookline, Massachusetts, as well as in municipal collections of New Bedford. Likewise, the surviving letterpress book of the New Bedford Park Commission contains copies of its letters to Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot.

Although Eliot visited the other main parks of the New Bedford park system in 1894, Buttonwood Park was the only one for which the Olmsted firm prepared an overall design plan. The New Bedford Board of Park Commissioners first printed the preliminary plan and report by Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot in their annual report for 1901, six years after it was prepared. Although Buttonwood Park had not been laid out according to this scheme during the intervening years, the Board of Park Commissioners still saw the value of the original design.

The various additions and changes that have been made in Buttonwood Park in subsequent years have continued to differ from the goals outlined by the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot. A long standing controversy continues between park advocates and those less anxious to encourage municipal spending on parks. The construction of numerous structures and facilities, the development of the zoo, popularity of active recreation, and advent of the automobile are among the reasons for the change from the initial design intent. The subsequent additions and the changes in use will be documented in the accompanying Phase II historic report.

The full text of the preliminary report on Buttonwood Park was included in the monograph on the late Charles Eliot, which was written by his father, Charles W. Eliot, and published in 1902. This posthumous publication, which brought together Eliot's writings, acknowledges his debt to Frederick Law Olmsted as well as his independent work as a landscape architect.

More recently, Buttonwood Park was one of ten parks examined in Olmsted in Massachusetts: The Public Legacy (1983), a report of the inventory committee of the Massachusetts Association of Olmsted Parks. The brief study of Buttonwood Park contained therein contributed to the renewed interest in the history of this park, its association with the Olmsted firm, and the contribution of Charles Eliot to urban park design. This publication was an important stimulus in bringing about the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management's Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program, for which this more extensive bibliography and the accompanying historic study were commissioned.1

These historic reports on Buttonwood Park are intended to contribute to the growing scholarship on the urban park movement in America and, specifically, in the Commonwealth. This bibliographic report demonstrates the kind of resources which may be available for the study of municipal parks. Furthermore, it is the intention that the historical record of Buttonwood Park help guide its present and future rehabilitation.

[1] See The Master List of Design Projects of The Olmsted Firm in Massachusetts 1866-1950 (Boston: Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks, 1986) iv, for a brief history of the recent interest in Olmsted parks in Massachusetts.

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Following is a selection of relevant secondary sources, some of which can be considered primary. A few key articles on parks and pleasure grounds from turn-of-the-century journals are noted because of their discussion of issues related to the initial planning of the New Bedford Park system and Buttonwood Park. Biographies and obituaries of the significant designers and other individuals associated with the early history of the park are included. General histories, guides, and specialized studies have been consulted to provide the context for understanding the social, economic, and physical development of New Bedford.

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Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending November 30, 1931. City Printing Co., Inc., 1932. 10pp.

Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending November 30, 1932. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1933. 5pp.

Fortieth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending November 30, 1933. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1934. 5pp.

Forty-first Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending November 30, 1934. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1935. 8pp.

Forty-second Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1935. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1936. 8pp.

Forty-third Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1936. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1937. 11pp.

Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1937. A.E. Coffin Press, 1938. 18pp., illus.

Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1938. Bradbury-Waring, Inc. 21pp.

Forty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1939. American Press, 1940. 17pp.

Forty-seventh Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1940. [Darwin Press] 20pp.

Forty-eighty Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1941. American Press. 15pp.

Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1942. American Press. 17pp.

Fiftieth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1943. American Press. 14pp.

Fifty-first Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1944. American Press. 19pp.

Fifty-second Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1945. American Press. 22pp.

Fifty-third Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1946. American Press. 22pp.

Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1947. American Press. 20pp.

Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1948. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1949. 22pp.

Fifty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1949. American Press, 1950. 24pp.

Fifty-seventh Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1950. American Press, 1951. 25pp.

Fifty-eighth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Masschusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1951. American Press, 1952. 25pp.

Fifty-ninth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Masschusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1952. Bradbury-Waring, 1953. 24pp.

Sixtieth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1953. Baker Mfg. Co., Inc., 1954. 24pp.

Sixty-first Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Masschusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1954. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1955. 23pp.

Sixty-second Annual Report of the Department fo Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1955. Reynolds-De Walt, 1956. 24pp.

Sixty-third Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1956. Reynolds-De Walt, 1957. 24pp.

Sixty-fourth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1957. Reynolds-De Walt, 1959. 23pp.

Sixty-fifth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1958. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1959. 22pp.

Sixty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1959. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1960. 23pp.

Sixty-seventh Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1960. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1961. 25pp.

Sixty-eighth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1961. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1962. 28pp.

Sixty-ninth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1962. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1963.

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Seventy-first Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for Year Ending December 31, 1964. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1965. 20pp.

Seventy-second Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1965. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1966. 20pp.

Seventy-third Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1966. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1967. 20pp.

Seventy-fourth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusets for the Year Ending December 31, 1967. Baker Printing, 1968. 20pp.

Seventy-fifth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1968. Baker Printing, 1969. 22pp.

Seventy-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1969. Baker Printing. 20pp.

Seventy-seventh Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1970. Baker Printing, 1971. 22pp.

Seventy-eighth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1971. Baker Manufacturing Company. 20pp.

Seventy-ninth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1972. Baker Manufacturing Company, 20pp.

Eightieth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1974 (January 1, 1973-June 30, 1974) Eighteen Months. Baker Manufacturing Company. 19pp.

Eighty-first Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1975. Baker Manufacturing Company. 29pp.

Eighty-second Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1976. Baker Manufacturing Company. 25pp.

Eighty-third Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1977. Baker Manufacturing Company. 25pp.

Eighty-fourth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1978. Baker Manufacturing Company. 23pp.

Eighty-fifth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1979. 22pp.

Eighty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1980. Baker Manufacturing Company. 23pp.

Eighty-seventh Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1981. Baker Manufacturing Company. 22pp.

Eighty-eighth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1982. Baker Manufacturing Company. 23pp.

Eighty-ninth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1983. 24pp.

Ninetieth Annual Report of the Department of Parks of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending June 30, 1984. 24pp.

New Bedford. **ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS OF THE CITY OF NEW BEDFORD.** Printed annually in the City Documents, misc. years include references to park structures repaired or constructed by this department.

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Buildings also Inspector of Buildings of the City of New Bedford, Mass. for the Year 1909. E. Anthony & Sons, Inc., 1910. p. 15.

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Buildings also Inspector of Buildings of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year 1914. J.E. Budlong Press, 1915. p. 11.

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Buildings also Inspector of Buildings of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year 1915. A.E. Coffin Press, 1916. p. 10.

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Buildings also Inspector of Buildings, City of New Bedford, Mass. for the Year Ending December 31, 1918. A.E. Coffin Press, 1919. p. 5d [Warming house at Buttonwood Park]

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Buildings also Inspector of Buildings of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for the Year Ending December 31, 1921. A.E. Coffin Press, 1922. p. 5 [New buildings: comfort station and potting/boiler house and greenhouse]

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Buildings also Inspector of Buildings, City of New Bedford, Mass. for the Year Ending December 31, 1922. A.E. Coffin Press, 1923. p.6 [Buttonwood Park - Barn and Wagon shed]

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Buildings also Inspector of Buildings, City of New Bedford, Mass. for the Year Ending December 31, 1923. A.E. Coffin Press, 1924. p. 4d [Bleachers at Brooklawn and Buttonwood Parks]

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Buildings also Inspector of Buildings, City of New Bedford, Mass. for the Year Ending December 31, 1927. L'Independent Printing, 1928. p.E8 [Park Board Buildings]

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Buildings and Inspector of Buildings for the Year 1929. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1930. pp. 5e and 6e [concrete greenhouse benches, warming house plans]

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Buildings and Inspector of Buildings, City of New Bedford, Mass. for the Year 1935. A.E. Coffin Press, 1936.

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Buildings and Inspector of Buildings, City of New Bedford, Mass. for the Year 1936. Bradbury-Waring, Inc., 1937.

New Bedford. **ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE NEW BEDFORD PLANNING BOARD.** 1st, 1925- . Misc. years report on parks and parkways.

First Annual Report of the New Bedford Planning Board for the Year Ending 1925. A.E. Coffin Press, 1926. pp. 9-10 [Reference to Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot park system study]

New Bedford Planning Department. Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan 1978-1983. 165pp.+. Includes introductory information on physical, social, and economic aspects of New Bedford, inventory of municipal parks and playgrounds, with site analyses, discussions of present use and problems and recommendations; for site plan, aerial photograph, and discussion of Buttonwood Park, see pp. 109-114.

UNPUBLISHED CITY AND COUNTY DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS:

The following primary documents are all valuable and provide information about the park not available in the published reports.

Bristol County Southern District, Registry of Deeds.
Registry Books, Conveyances, Buttonwood Park.

New Bedford, Assessors Office.
Block and lot cards, references to dates and Registry books and pages for Buttonwood Park conveyance records. NBedf-City Hall

New Bedford City Council. Records of the City Council.
Communication from Board of Park Commissioners to City Council relative to parks, 10 December 1894, 12pp.; includes recommendations of Park Board about park improvement and appropriation, copy of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot's Report of 13 June 1894, plan of parks by city land surveyor. NBedf-City Hall

New Bedford Department of Parks. Records of the Park Commissioners and Park Board. NBedfPD

Journal and Blotters. Misc. records of expenditures, appropriations, and payroll

Letterpress Books. 22 September 1892 to 10 October 1899, 122pp. volume; also loose pages; includes correspondence between New Bedford Park Commissioners and various individuals and businesses, including local residents, nurseries, Olmsted firm (see below), and park commissioners and superintendents from other municipalities.

Minutes of Meetings. Complete records of meetings, 1892-present
Vol. 1, 26 Jan. 1892-15 Aug. 1893
26 Jan. 1892-29 Dec. 1896, 153pp.
Vol. 2, 6 Jan. 1897- 5 Feb. 1906, 193pp.
Vol. 3, 27 Sept.1899- 6 Sept.1912, 300pp.
Vol. 4, 17 Sept.1912-29 Nov. 1944
Vol. 5, 27 Dec. 1944-25 Sept. 1968 [Regular monthly meetings]

W.P.A., Federal Civil Works Administration, E.R.A., Project Forms for park improvements, 1933-1936.

New Bedford Department of Public Works. Records of the Engineering Department. NBedfDPW

Conveyances, Park Lands, Buttonwood Park. Prepared by Engineering Department, March, 1927, George H. Nye, City Engineer. NBedf-City Hall, Clerk of Committees

CONVEYANCE DATA AND RECORD MAP OF BUTTONWOOD PARK

Parcel No.	Date of Deed	Kind of Deed	Registry Book&Page	Grantor	Area	Cost
1	11 June 1892	Warranty	147-350	John Green	53A29.33R	30000
1A	9 June 1892	Quitclaim	147-357	Clark Green		
1B	16 Aug. 1919	Warranty	463-205	City NB sale	33.4R	2055
1C	16 Aug. 1919	Warranty	484-107	City NB sale	27.23R	1040
2	9 June 1892	Warranty	147-358	Clark Green	1A	600
	9 June 1892	Quitclaim	147-348	John Green		
3	19 July 1892	Warranty	147-442	Martha Whittemore, Mary Whittemore, et al.	5A23R	3500
4	16 Sept 1903	Warranty	241-429	Julia E. Haskell	10A154.44R	3200
5	28 Feb. 1911	Warranty	346-254	F. William Oesting	300R	1500
6	29 July 1911	Warranty	355-71	T. Franklin Gay	162.43R	4000
7	31 July 1911	Warranty	354-52	F. William Oesting	271.59R	6110
8	3 Aug. 1911	Warranty	351-462	Charles D. Finni	277.71R	3332
9	2 July 1913	Quitclaim	393-89	Hetty H.R. Green	18A138.42R	9500
	22 July 1913	Trustees'	393-340	Henry B. Day, Edward H.R. Green and Oliver Prescott, Jr., Trustees		9500
10	29 Aprl 1922	Condemn	P.I.4-22	William Kenworthy; Mary Smith et al.; Maria Fagan; William Ashley; Heirs Oesting; James S	260.24R	14348
11	13 Nov. 1935	Tax	774-333	Joseph Robida et al. to City of NB		
	27 Feb. 1936	Foreclosure				

Notebooks of City Surveyor and Engineer. Complete set of field notes; includes park surveys from 1893-; with rough sketches and notations for grading, lines and levels, locations of paths, drives, brook, pond, structures, and trees. Card index available.

New Bedford Planning Department.
U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service. Preliminary Report, Buttonwood Park Flood Prevention Measure, New Bedford, Massachusetts, Pilgrim Area Resource Conservation and Development Project. Prepared for the New Bedford Planning Department, February 1976, 11pp. Report on flooding conditions at Buttonwood Park, outlining alternatives to improve situation, and offering recommendations for more specialized future studies.

NEWSPAPERS:

Newspapers are an important source for a study of Buttonwood Park and the park system. Beginning in 1890, the local papers covered the meetings of the City Council Committee on Parks, and from 1892, the meetings of the Park Commission. They often published reports to the City Council from the Committee on Parks and the Park Commission and reports of the City Land Surveyor/Engineer and the Olmsted firm. In the early years of the park's planning, the papers reported various topics as selection of park sites, visits to park lands, park appropriations, public opinion, as well as other items that are not necesssarily recorded elsewhere. Various park improvements and events are covered.

The following New Bedford newspapers are on microfilm at the New Bedford Free Public Library and are available on interlibrary loan. The newspapers can be scanned for articles with prior knowledge of key dates. The Local History Room has a card index, but there are few references to Buttonwood Park.

Daily Mercury. Feb. 1831-Nov. 1894.
Morning Mercury. Nov. 1894-May 1942. (Continues Daily Mercury)
New Bedford Evening Journal. Feb. 1890-June 1896.
New Bedford Evening Standard, 1850-1932.
New Bedford Standard-Times. Aug. 1932-present. (Continues New Bedford Evening Standard and New Bedford Times)
New Bedford Sunday Standard-Times, 1932-.
New Bedford Times. 1902-1909; 1912-1932.

The following collections of newspaper clippings provide easier access to specific articles on New Bedford parks. Together they span almost all the years of the parks' history.

Newspaper Scrapbooks:

Charles Ashley Scrapbooks. 1890-1937. MNBedf
Scrapbooks of New Bedford mayor who served for 45 years; Selected newspaper clippings from above mentioned New Bedford newspapers of items related to local politics and city development, including relevant articles on parks. Only a few of the many volumes are indexed.

New Bedford Department of Parks. Scrapbooks. MNBedfPD
10 October 1955-30 January 1966
14 January 1966-21 January 1969
Newspaper clippings related to New Bedford parks.

Newspaper Files:

Library of the New Bedford Standard-Times. Subject files, include clippings, mostly from 1930s to present. Categories include: Parks-General; Buttonwood Park-General, Bandshell, Pond and warming house, Veteran's Memorial Building, Greenhouse, Zoo, Brook.

Selected Newspaper Articles:

"Committee on Parks at Work; It Looks As If Something Will Be Done in the Matter at Last." New Bedford Evening Journal 13 November 1890:3.

"City Council; Preamble and Order Relating to Public Parks Presented." 11 December 1891. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:4.

"To Provide Public Parks; Proposal to Issue City Bonds to the Amount of $100,000." New Bedford Evening Journal 27 January 1892:2.

"In the Interest of Parks; Conference Between the City Council Committee and the Park Commissioners." 27 January 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:31-32.

"The City Council; Good Success of the Park Project with the Councilmen." 29 January 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:32.

"Park Bonds." 3 February 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:34.

"Public Parks." 9 April 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:61.

"Three Park Sites." New Bedford Evening Standard 12 April 1892:2.

"Another Park Site." 21 April 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:74.

"Alderman Brownell's Offer." New Bedford Evening Journal 26 April 1892:5.

"The Board of Public Works; As Park Commissioners." New Bedford Evening Journal 3 May 1892:2.

"Park Commission." New Bedford Evening Standard 3 May 1892:3.

"Alderman S.A. Brownell." New Bedford Evening Standard 13 May 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:89.

"The City Council; Lots of Talk Over the Appropration for Parks." Daily Mercury 13 May 1892:1.

"Parks Question Discussed." New Bedford Evening Journal 13 May 1892:2.

Brownell, S.A. Letter. Daily Mercury 16 May 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:90.

Parker, D.L. Reply to Letter of S.A. Brownell. New Bedford Evening Journal 16 May 1892:1. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:91.

"Brownell vs. Parker; Prominent Citizens Squabble Over a Park Site." New Bedford Evening Journal 16 May 1892:1.

"The Park Question; Petition Largely Signed Asking the Commissioners to Purchase the Green Farm." May 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 2:91.

"Park Commission Receives Communications on the Green Farm." 17 May 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook 2:91-2.

"Two Petitions." Daily Mercury 18 May 1892. Charles Ashley Scrapbook 2:92-3.

"The City Council; The Park Question." Daily Mercury 27 May 1892: 1.

"The City's Parks." Daily Mercury 27 May 1893:1.

"The West End Park." New Bedford Evening Journal 17 March 1894:4.

"Parks Dedicated." Daily Mercury 21 April 1894:2+.

"The Park Commissioners." 9 May 1894. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 4:17.

"Public Parks." 14 May 1894. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 4:22.

"Park Commission; Acquisition of More Land for All the Parks Favored." New Bedford Evening Standard 7 June 1894:2.

"Preliminary Plans." New Bedford Evening Standard 8 June 1894:2.

"Visited Public Parks; Park Commissioners Take an Expert With Them." Daily Mercury 8 June 1894:8.

"Playgrounds and Parks; Their Uses and Advantages Compared by an Expert [Garden and Forest]." Daily Mercury 12 June 1894:5.

"The Park System; Expert Landscape Architects Render a Report." New Bedford Evening Standard 15 June 1894:2+.

"The Parks." Daily Mercury 15 June 1894:8.

"Park Commissioners." Daily Mercury 19 June 1894:8.

"Pond in the Park; An Important Report Submitted by Engineer Williams." Daily Mercury 14 July 1894:1+.

"Park Commissioners." New Bedford Evening Standard 20 July 1894:2.

"Park Ordinances." New Bedford Evening Standard 28 July 1894:1.

Editorial. Morning Mercury 20 November 1894. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 4:107-8.

"It is Squelched, Mercury's Sensation Short-Lived; the Park Commissioners Have Been More Enthusiastic than the Mayor for Developing Buttonwood." New Bedford Evening Journal 20 November 1894:1+. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 4:109-10.

"The Daily Slanderer." Editorial. New Bedford Evening Journal 21 November 1894. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 4:116.

"Every Issue Met." New Bedford Evening Journal 21 November 1894. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 4:111-2.

"Pointed Questions on Parks." New Bedford Evening Journal 24 November 1894:3.

Editorial. Morning Mercury 28 November 1894. Charles Ashley Scrapbook 4:112.

"Mayor Brownell at South End Ralley." New Bedford Evening Journal 28 November 1894:3. Charles Ashley Scrapbood 4:112-3.

"Where are their Issues?" New Bedford Evening Journal 28 November 1894:7.

"Park Mania Again." Daily Mercury 8 December 1894:1+.

"His Valedictory; Mayor Brownell Fires His Last Official Shot." Morning Mercury 28 December 1894:7.

"For Park Improvement; Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot Make a Preliminary Report." New Bedford Evening Journal 6 March 1895:4.

"Baseball at Buttonwwod." New Bedford Evening Standard. 27 March 1897:2.

"Baseball at Buttonwood." New Bedford Evening Standard 2 April 1897:1.

"The Use of Parks." Editorial. New Bedford Evening Standard 6 April 1897:6.

Observer. "Communications: Buttonwood Park." Letter. New Bedford Evening Standard 18 July 1899. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 12:165-166.

"Park Commissioners." Morning Mercury 10 October 1899. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 13:36.

Remington, W.H.B. "Park Commission's Visit to Boston." Morning Mercury 17 October 1899. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 13:47-8.

Remington, W.H.B. "New Park Board's Tour; Indorsed by Superintendent of the Boston Park System." New Bedford Evening Standard 17 October 1899. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 13:48.

Remington, W.H.B. "Will Be Long Remembered; New Bedford Park Commission's Visit to Springfield." New Bedford Evening Standard 18 October 1899. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 13:49.

Remington, W.H.B. "The Roving Commissioners; Park Board's Investigations Continued in Worcester." New Bedford Evening Standard 19 October 1899. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 13:50.

Remington, W.H.B. "Park Commissioners Back Home Again; Yesterday's Inspection was of Roger Williams Park." Morning Mercury 20 October 1899, Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 13:50-51.

Editorial. Morning Mercury 24 October 1899. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 13:54.

"Park Commissioners Finally Get Together." Morning Mercury 25 January 1900. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 13:192.

"Park Supplement." Morning Mercury 23 May 1902.

"Visited Buttonwood." Morning Mercury 7 July 1903. Charles Ashley Scrapbook. 20:129.

"Park Officials and Parks." Editorial. New Bedford Evening Standard 3 January 1905. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 23:191.

"Getting Our Money's Worth Out of the City's Public Park System." New Bedford Sunday Standard 21 August 1910:17.

"$3000 Tennis Courts Urged for Local Parks; More Lands; New Bedford Times 10 January 1913. Charles Ashley Scrapbook 51:29-30.

"Land for Park Purposes." Morning Mercury 12 February 1913. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 51:88.

"Takes Park Land." New Bedford Evening Standard 28 April 1913. Charles Ashley Scrapbook, 52:102.

"The Barnard Statue." New Bedford Evening Standard 13 July 1913:1+.

"Interest Revived in Barnard Statue." New Bedford Sunday Standard 29 June 1913:3.

"Splendid Statue Revealed to Public For First Time." New Bedford Times 19 September 1914:1+.

"Statue Unveiled; Barnard Monument Formally Given to the City." New Bedford Evening Standard 19 September 1914:1+.

"A City Made Richer by the Gift of George D. Barnard." New Bedford Evening Standard 20 September 1914:1+.

"Unveiling of the Barnard Statue." Morning Mercury 21 September 1914:5.

"New Buildings Proposed for Buttonwood Park." New Bedford Evening Standard 23 December 1917:21.

"A $30,000 Park Building for Buttonwood; Bond Issue to Secure Funds." New Bedford Evening Standard 16 March 1919:1.

"Greenhouse at Buttonwood Nearly Open." New Bedford Evening Standard 9 October 1921:1.

"Lightning Fires Sawmill; Park Pond Runs Wild; Buttonwood Stream Goes Beyond Banks." New Bedford Evening Standard 14 February 1930:1.

"Park Brook at Buttonwood is Beauty Scene." Standard-Times 12 August 1934.

"New Band and Orchestra Shell Projected for Buttonwood to Be Practical, Beautiful." Sunday Standard-Times 19 May 1935:9.

"Park Building Almost Ready." Standard-Times 30 June 1935.

"Spot for Band Shell Chosen by Park Board." Standard-Times 2 July 1935:3.

"Park Keepers, Police Appear in New Attire." Standard-Times 2 August 1935:9.

"Skaters Enjoy Warming House Recently Built at Buttonwood." Standard-Times 8 December 1935.

"Foo to Zoo, Say Annoyed Animals at Ramshackle Buttonwood Park." Sunday Standard-Times 19 April 1953:20.

"Lawler Outlines Park Program." Standard-Times 6 December 1955:1+.

"Changes in City Parks Discussed." Standard-Times 9 January 1956:13.

"Buttonwood Zoo Project is Approved." Standard-Times 10 October 1966:1+.

" 'Kiddie Train' Bought for Park." Standard-Times 24 June 1969:1+.

"Buttonwood Park Work Progresses." Standard-Times 3 December 1970:27.

Wallbank, Lucy M. "Buttonwood Pond Drained 50 Years Ago." Sunday Standard-Times 1 August 1971:12.

"Paddle Boats Voted." Standard-Times 30 March 1972:25.

"World War I Vets Memorial Dedicated." Standard-Times 9 June 1972:1.

"Memorial to City Park Head Readied." Standard-Times 31 August 1972:3.

"Housing Called Threat to Buttonwood Pond." Standard-Times 12 October 1972.

"Outside Firm to Skim Buttonwood Pond." Standard-Times 11 June 1976:17.

"Lack of City Park Warming [House]." Standard-Times 11 February 1977.

OLMSTED ASSOCIATES RECORDS

The Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, contain correspondence and reports of visits related to New Bedford Parks, Job File #1810. The letters are primarily between the Olmsted firm and the various park commissioners. For the most part, they deal with Buttonwood Park and discuss the terms of employment and payment of fees; also included are Eliot's report of the initial visit to New Bedford Parks and the firm's preliminary report on Buttonwood Park. Other letters are between the firm and the City Engineer, W.F. Williams, and New Bedford resident, Julia Delano. This material includes the following:

Series A: The Letterpress Books, 16 letters, typescripts; from May 1894 - Aug. 1895
Series B: Box 102; Job File #1810, 4 letters, originals; from July 1894 - December 1894
Series E: Reports of Visits, 2, 1894

Series A: The Letterpress Books

1. OO&E to S.A. Brownell, Chairman of Park Commission
   17 May 1894; Letterpress Book A34:174 (Reply to inquiry about visit to New Bedford's park lands)

2. OO&E to The Board of Park Commissioners
   13 June 1894; A34:426-431
   (Report of Eliot's visit to New Bedford Parks on June 7)

3. Charles Eliot to Miss Julia Delano
   26 June 1894; A35:513-514
   (Response to questions concerning plans for development of Buttonwood Park)

4. OO&E to W.F. Williams
   13 July 1894; A35:633

5. OO&E to W.F. Williams
   17 July 1894; A35:669 (About park's water supply)

6. OO&E to S.A. Brownell, Chairman of the Park Commissioners
   20 July 1894; A35:702

7. OO&E to W.F. Williams
   2 November 1894; A37:509

8. OO&E to George F. Bartlett, Park Commissioner
   10 November 1894; A37:577-578 (Clarification of terms of employment and outlining various stages of work)

9. OO&E to Wm. S. Cook, Sec't of the Park Commission
   13 December 1894; A37:875

10. OO&E to George F. Bartlett
    15 December 1894; A37:880-881 (About terms of contract)

11. OO&E to Wm. S. Cook
    19 December 1894; A37:927

12. OO&E to Wm. S. Cook
    28 December 1894; A38:1-4 (Articles of Agreement between Board of Park Commissioners of the City of New Bedford and OO&E)

13. OO&E to Wm. S. Cook
    2 January 1895; A38:31

14. OO&E to The Chairman of the Park Commission
    26 February 1895; A39:609-613 (Preliminary report on Buttonwood Park)

15. OO&E to Wm. S. Cook
    11 July 1895; A41:579

16. OO&E to Wm. S. Cook
    3 August 1895; A41:777

Letters to Olmsted firm (July 1894-December 1894)
Box 102; Job File #1810; 4 letters

1. W.F. Williams to Charles Eliot
   9 July 1894, 3p. (About water supply)

2. S.A. Brownell to OO&E
   19 July 1894, 1p. (Response to report of visit)

3. George F. Bartlett to OO&E
   12 December 1894, 1p. (About terms of contract)
   (Copy appears in Park Commission Letterpress Book at Parks Department, p. 24)

4. Wm. S. Cook to OO&E
   18 December 1894, 1p. (About terms of contract)
   (Copy appears in Park Commission Letterpress Book at Parks Department, p. 28)

Reports of Visits; E4 (Volume:20 May 1893 to 2 May 1895)
Includes entries for two New Bedford visists

1. 7 June 1894, p. 236; Brief account of Eliot's visit to New Bedford Parks

2. 3 October 1894, p. 316; Notice of George Bartlett's visit to discuss terms for employment for West (Buttonwood) Park

OTHER MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS:

Charles Eliot Papers, Frances Loeb Library, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University.
Notebooks, comprising diaries for 1894 and 1895; brief references to visit to New Bedford and study of park.

Warren H. Manning Papers, Special Collections, Alumni/Lydon Library, University of Lowell.
Ledger books, 1902-1905, listings of visits and expenses for work in New Bedford.

George Julian Zolnay Papers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
Papers, including photographs of him with his sculpture, list of works sold, articles and personal memoirs.

PLANS AND MAPS:

The majority of plans, surveys, and drawings for Buttonwood Park are in the Engineering Department at the Department of Public Works (NBedfDPW). Initial surveys were filed at the Bristol County Southern District Registry of Deeds. Copies of two early topographic surveys are also located at Fairsted; these were sent to the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot by the City Engineer, W.F. Williams. Copies of the preliminary plan for Buttonwood Park, 18 February 1895, prepared by Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, can be found at Fairsted, the New Bedford Engineering Department, and the New Bedford Free Public Library (NBedf). The only completed study for the whole park prepared by the Olmsted firm, this preliminary plan complements the written report submitted to the Chairman of the New Bedford Park Commission, 26 February 1895.

Copies of a few plans from the Engineering Department and additional plans are located at the office of the Department of Parks, Buttonwood Park (NBedfPD). Of particular interest is the general plan for Buttonwood Park prepared independently by Warren H. Manning, landscape designer, in 1905, after he left the Olmsted office. This plan along with his letter, noted above on page 8, outlines the problems associated with the development of the park since the initial study prepared by Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot.

The following plans are listed chronologically with the location noted. When a date is not given, I have attempted to place the plan in chronological sequence. The list includes plans for buildings which were constructed in the park; these plans are located in the above mentioned city departments as well as the Department of Buildings.

54/tracing cloth/1894/Shedd and Sarle, Civil Engineers, Worcester/unlabeled; Area to Dartmouth Town Line, north and south of Kempton St., including Buttonwood Brook/NBedfDPW

Plan Book 3-33/20 March 1894/W.F. Williams, City Land Surveyor/Plan of Buttonwood Park/1"=100'/Bristol County Southern District Registry of Deeds

Case T713/tracing cloth/27 July 1894/ W.F. Williams, City Land Surveyor/unlabeled; Plan showing brook from Kempton Street to Hawthorn St. along Dartmouth Town Line/NBedfDPW

-/tracing cloth/c.1894/Engineering Dept./Buttonwood Park with proposed additions/Records of City Council

-/tracing cloth/c.1894/Engineering Dept./Plan of New Bedford showing present parks, proposed additions and parkways/Records of City Council

1032/drawing paper/n.d./Plan showing proposed extension of Buttonwood Park and Lake/MNBedfDPW

T335/tracing cloth/n.d./Plan showing owners around Buttonwood Park south to Allen St./1"=400'/MNBedfDPW

1810-1/tracing cloth/received 12 January 1895/W.F. Williams, City Engineer/Contour plan of Buttonwood Park, Area between Kempton and Hawthorn Sts., Rockdale and Brownell Aves., showing existing structures, pond, and groves/ 1"=100'/Fairsted

D-118/tracing cloth and working paper copy/n.d./Topographical plan of Buttonwood Park/MNBedfDPW

629A/paper/n.d./Contour plan of Buttonwood Park, showing park abutters and streets/1"=100'/MNBedfDPW

1810-2/tracing cloth/21 January 1895/Survey of park boundary at Brownell Avenue, showing brook from Kempton Street to Hawthorn St. along Dartmouth Town Line/1"=100'/Fairsted

1810-3/tracing paper/14 February 1895/Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot; Kellaway, draftsman/Park Study for Buttonwood Park/ 1"=100'/Fairsted [missing]

1810-4/tracing cloth/18 February 1895/ Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot; Bolton, draftsman/Preliminary plan of Buttonwood Park (copy of 1810-3), showing landscape features, circulation system, proposed structures, and athletic areas/1"=100'/Fairsted

1810-4a/brown ink, pencil, watercolors on buff paper/18 February 1895/33 1/4"x 43 1/2"/Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot/Preliminary plan of Buttonwood Park/MNBedf

Case D-118/2 copies/18 February 1895/Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot/ Preliminary Plan of Buttonwood Park/MNBedfDPW

215/tracing cloth/ 21 October 1897/W.F. Williams, City Engineer/Plans for Bear House at Buttonwood Park; elevations, sections, framing plans, side elevation of fence, list of materials/MNBedfDPW

-/1900/Plan and elevations of proposed shelter house at Buttonwood Park/7th Annual Report, pp. 25-28.

335/tracing cloth/approved October 1901/William F. Williams, City Engineer/Unlabeled; Plan showing abutters around Buttonwood Park/ 1"=400'/MNBedfDPW

355/tracing cloth/14 March 1903/William F. Williams, City Engineer/Plan of Proposed Grading and Drainage of Recreation Ground Accompanying Report to Park Commissioners; cross section and contour plan of large field west of Rockdale Avenue/NBedfDPW

3718/drawing paper/1903/W.F. Williams, City Engineer/Proposed roadway at Buttonwood Park/1"=40'/NBedfDPW

5001/brown paper and tracing cloth copies/24 September 1903/ William F. Williams, City Engineer/Plan of Proposed Water-way and paths at Buttonwood Park, south of Court Street, with cross section/1"=30'/NBedfDPW

3753/drawing paper/n.d./William F. Williams, City Engineer/Plan and profile of fence at Buttonwood Park, n.s. Court St. at pond/NBedfDPW

4302/drawing paper/March 1904/William. F. Williams/Plan for one of two similar flights of stone steps from s. side of Court Street to banks of canal at Buttonwood Park/NBedfDPW

T323/tracing cloth/n.d./William F. Williams/2 Studies for entrance to Buttonwood Park at Court Street and Rockdale Avenue/1"=20'/NBedfDPW

5001/tracing/ 3 September 1904/William F. Williams/Plan for Dam, with flashboards to control elevation of water in canal at Buttonwood Park/NBedfDPW

Case D118/tracing cloth and paper working copy/November 1904/ William F. Williams, City Engineer/Plan of a portion of Buttonwood Park; topographical survey, ground and contour plans, locations of trees (with abbreviations key) of Southwest section of park/1"=40'/NBedfDPW

T335/tracing cloth/15 December 1904/William F. Williams/ Plan of Buttonwood Park/NBedfDPW

1904/engraved plate/William F. Williams, City Engineer/Plan for Drainage and Development of Swamp Land, Buttonwood Park; plan and cross-section of canal/NBedfPD

351-6/1-3/paper copy/24 February 1905/Warren H. Manning, landscape designer/Suggestion for general plan, Buttonwood Park, N.B., Mass./1"=400'/NBedfPD

1917-8/blueprint/Refectory Building/Smith & Howland/NBedfB

1-8/1919/C. Hammond & Son, Achts./Set of 7 plans, elevations, sections-details, and perspective of proposed warming house/NBedfPD

4942/drawing paper/n.d./George H. Nye, City Engineer/Plan of area around Buttonwood Pond/1"=100'/NBedfDPW

5328/tracing cloth/1921/Land south of Kempton St. and west of Jenny Lind, for proposed addition/1"=60'/NBedfDPW

1921 May/blueprint sheets and specifications/Comfort Station/ Brown & Poole/NBedfB

1921/Potting House and Boiler Room-4plans/Brown & Poole, arch./ 1/4"=1'/NBedfB

5435/tracing cloth/8 May 1922/George H. Nye, City Engineer/Plan of Land Taken for Addition to Buttonwood Park by Board of Park Commissioners 29 April 1922/1"=60'/NBedfDPW

5343/tracing cloth/15 May 1925/George H. Nye, City Engineer/ Plan and constructional details of pond to be built in the formal garden at Buttonwood Park/NBedfDPW

3410/tracing cloth/1 July 1927/Plan of park with Proposed Bridle Path/1"=150'/NBedfDPW/blueprint copy NBedfPD

3401/Oct. 1927/Plan of concrete culvert across Brook near Kempton St./NBedfDPW

-/blueprint/1934/Storage, stock room/Supt. of Buildings/W.P.A./ NBedfB

X122044-A1-021/blueprints, several sheets/Bear den/designed by Cal B. Poulin/drawn by Everett T. Blossom/office of Geo. O. Gardner, Supt. of Buildings/drawn under E.R.A./NBedfB

-/blueprint/1935/WPA,Supt. of Buildings/Plan to accompany project for moving frame building from Buttonwood Park to Bristol Mill site (future park) and erecting stone wall and iron fence at Buttonwood Park/NBedfDPW

5881/tracing paper/Aug. 1937/British Memorial, Buttonwood Park/1'=8'/NBedfDPW

-/blueprint/1937 Dec. 20/Municipal stadium for Buttonwood Park/Everett T. Blossom/NBedfB

8-6/28 Sept. 1954/Cable and wire layout-Buttonwood Park, secondary layout/NBedfPD

5940/tracing/15 June 1956/Comm. of Public Works/Plan showing proposed culvert for Buttonwood Park, northwest corner Hawthorn St. and Brownell Ave./NBedfDPW

1-5/8 April 1957/ Gas & Edison Company/Street Lighting Layout, Court St., Buttonwood Park/NBedfPD

5882/20 April 1958/PDW-Engineer Div./2 plans & specifications for chain link fence at Buttonwood Park Tennis Courts/1"=40'/NBedfDPW

E-252/7June 1961/Asst. Comm. of Public Works/Alteration to Brook & Regrading at Buttonwood Park; plan, general layout; existing grades and new finished grades; plan and sections of channel and pool/NBedfDPW/blueprint copy NBedfPD,8-9

8-3/Feb. 1966/Plans and elevations for garage/NBedfPD

16/paper/July 1967/Connell Assoc.,l.a./Proposed improvements at Buttonwood Park/NBedfPD

15/Proposed Improvements/City Planning Dept.

8-4/1971/Zoological Society-City Planning Dept./Zoo-Seal Pool and climbing area for animals/NBedfPD

8-1/1975/Community Development/Set of 5 plans for Zoo, improvements to animal shelter/NBedfPD

8-a/1976/Plans for greenhouse/NBedfPD

9-/1976/Plans for Warming House; Senior Citizens Layout & Park Office/NBedfPD

B-596/blueprints/1979/Proposed culvert at Buttonwood Brook under Brownell Avenue-4 plans/Camp Dresser & McKee/NBedfDPW

8-5/n.d./Sketch of Safety town for Children/NBedfPD

8-2/n.d./Plan for Buttonwood Park-Tennis Park, maintenance, child's play area, picnic area, car park, zoo, gardens, greenhouse, etc./NBedfPD

1-4/blueprint/n.d./Supt. of Blds./Concrete benches for greenhouse at Buttonwood Park/NBedfPD

1-2/n.d./N.B. Wire Dept., D.F. Hayes/Flood lights at tennis courts/NBedfPD

5883/n.d./tracing paper/Baseball diamonds, old location, west Rockdale Ave., s. Court St./NBedfDPW

5884/n.d./Baseball diamonds, new location, west of Rockdale Ave., s. Court Street/NBedfDPW

MAPS AND ATLASES:

The following published maps and atlases of New Bedford include the site and/or a plan of Buttonwood Park:

Map of the County of Bristol, Massachusetts. Details from actual surveys under direction of Henry F. Walling. New York: John L. Smith & Co., 1858. Land ownership map

State of Massachusetts, U.S. Geological Survey. J.W. Powell, Director. Boston & N.Y.: Forbes Co., 1885. p. 41 New Bedford sheet

New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Bristol County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: Everts & Richards, 1895. pl. 48-49.

Map of New Bedford & Vicinity, published for H.S. Hutchinson & Co. Boston: Geo. H. Walker & Co., 1896.

New Bedford and Vicinity. Road Maps. South Bristol League Club, 1898. Plan no. 1

Atlas of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Boston: Walker Lithograph & Publishing Co., 1911. Pond and park drives noted

Map of the City of New Bedford-Bristol County, Massachusetts. Engineers Department, 1936. Park drives noted

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Post cards collections:

1-1/PO.4 C83W/View from canal to causeway, with iron railing and stone steps leading to banks of canal/MNBedf

1-2/PO CL.8 B97D/ Park canal-brook, duck pond/MNBedf

Photographic Collections:

The largest collection of early photographs of Buttonwood Park is preserved at the Department of Parks. Several of these photographs served as illustrations in the annual reports. Therefore, the following listing is provided of those photographs reprinted in the annual reports and the years and pages they appear. If an original photograph survives, then it is also noted (MNBedfPD). A few of the photographs in this collection were not reproduced in the reports and are also listed below.

2-1/Skating at Buttonwood Park/1901-p.41;1902-p.38

2-2/Skating at Buttonwood Park/1901-opp. p.47

2-3/n.d./View across Buttonwood Pond looking east; Skaters in foreground/MNBedfPD/1913-p.16;1915-p.30;1917-p.9;1920-p.11

2-4/Skating at Buttonwood Pond, view across Court Street/ 1900-69;1912-opp. 35;1918-11;1923-7

2-5/Boating at Buttonwood Park, view of dock/1901-40

2-6/Rowboating and miniature sailing at Buttonwood Pond/1901-48; 1925-21

2-7/View across Buttonwood Pond from park drive looking northwest, with bicycling/1901-44

2-8/Buttonwood Pond, [ice] polo playing/1902-55

2-9/Boating party at Buttonwood Pond, dock, miniature sailing/ 1901-opp. 51

2-10/Panoramic view across Buttonwood Pond looking southeast, shoreline, pond shelter and various unidentified structures/ MOHAND/MNBedfPD/1912-opp. 18

2-11/Boating at Buttonwood Pond; swanboats, rowboats/1901-45; 1902-39;1915-12

2-12/View across park drive (Court Street) and path with figures standing next to pond shelter/1901-7

2-13/View of Buttonwood Pond looking southeast to causeway and shelter; park lighting/1903-71

2-14/View across causeway looking to northeast;iron fence and park lighting/1903-37;1916-4;1923-9.

2-15/View of park drive across Court Street/1900-85

2-16/View from park drive (Court Street) looking west across pond; pond shelter/1900-85

2-17/View of Buttonwood Brook-deer paddock/1900-77;1920-13

2-18/Buttonwood Brook-deer paddock/1901-opp. 43

2-19/View of canal/MOHAND/MNBedfPD/1912-34a;1917-7;1922-9; 1926-[21]

2-20/View of canal below causeway/MOHAND/1912-34b;1918-15

2-21/n.d./11x14/View from canal to causeway arch, with iron railing, park lighting/MNBedfPD

2-22/n.d./11x14/Park brook in woods/MNBedfPD

2-23/Carriage drive in woods; Forest Drive/1900-61;1917-16;1924-9

2-24/Carriage drive in woods/1901-opp. 52;1925-13

2-25/Carriage drive in woods/1903-75;1913-42

2-25a/Carriage drive in woods/1903-67;1916-opp. 7

2-26/Brook in woods/1900-73

2-26a/View of Woods/1903-83

2-27/View of park with bandstand near parade ground, flagpole/ 1901-opp. 55

2-28/3680/View of park with bandstand; band concert Sunday afternoon/MNBedfPD/1913-24

2-29/Children's playground/1901-opp. 41

2-30/View of Zoo: bears in bear den with iron fence/MNBedfPD/ 1900-64;1901-42;1902-30;1916-12b;1917-13

2-31/View of Zoo: bear den and iron fence; park furniture-benches/1900-65

2-32/View of Zoo structures: bear house and monkey house/
MNBedfPD/1912-14

2-33/View of Zoo structures: Monkey House/1912-32

2-34/Panoramic view of Zoo-Deer and Elk enclosure/MOHAND/MNBedfPD
1912-opp. 10

2-35/Zoo-Elk enclosure/NBedfPD/1900-63;1901-31;1903-36

2-36/Zoo-Animal enclosure/1900-67

2-37/Zoo-Elk/1914-16;1917-13;1919-3;1921-17

2-38/Zoo-Deer pen/1901-opp.48;1916-5

2-39/Fountain in Buttonwood Park/1927-13 [1901-opp. 31;
identified as Brooklawn Park]

2-40/Unveiling of Barnard Monument/1914-34;1917-11

2-41/Statues-Memorials:Barnard Monument at rotary/1914-34;
1915-24;1916-2

2-42/Statues-Memorials:Barnard Monument/MNBedfPD

2-43/Active Sports Facilities:Tennis Court at Buttonwood Park/
1922-7

2-44/Perennial Garden/1923-13

2-45/Canal with shoreline planting and flanking paths/1927-5

2-46/Floral Bed-commemorative/1937-44

Old Dartmouth Historical Society & Whaling Museum:

8907-Buttonwood Park Memorial

Photographic files:

The Library of the New Bedford Standard-Times has photographic files; These are more recent in date, mostly from the 1930s to the present. They supplement the earlier photographs of the previous collection and document the later changes and uses of the park.

Categories include: Buttonwood Park-General Views; Pond; Monuments; and Zoo-through 1959; Zoo-of 60s; Zoo-of 70s; Zoo-from 1980.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

Fairsted	Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Massachusetts
MH-Loeb F104891m	Harvard University, Frances Loeb Library, microfilm number
MNBedf	New Bedford Free Public Library
MNBedfB	New Bedford Buildings Department
MNBedfDPW	New Bedford Department of Public Works Department of Engineering
MNBedfHI	Old Dartmouth Historical Society and Whaling Museum Library
MNBedfPD	New Bedford Department of Parks
MOHAND	Mayor's Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development
NN	New York Public Library
NNC-A	Columbia University, Avery Memorial Architectural Library

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